

BIG SANDY NEWS.

Aut inveniam viam, aut faciam.

VOLUME XXV NUMBER 1

LOUISA, LAWRENCE COUNTY, KENTUCKY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1909.

M. F. CONLEY, Publisher

EPIDEMIC

Of Unexpected Weddings in This Locality.

Three of These Affairs Took Place On Last Saturday Evening, August 28th.

A wedding occurred in this city on Saturday evening last which greatly surprised almost everybody who knew the contracting parties. Burns Johnson, of Louisa, had been engaged with his father, Lucien S. Johnson, on the construction of the lock at Willow, Kentucky river. He found himself in Louisa Friday morning, and by many it was thought he had come to enter the Kentucky Normal College. He had come to enter a school, it is true, but one of an entirely different sort.

Shortly after dark on Saturday evening the customary "serenade" sounded down Lock avenue, and it announced the marriage of Burns Johnson to Clara, the only daughter of Dr. and Mrs. A. W. Bromley, and granddaughter of Dr. and Mrs. L. H. York. She is a beautiful and attractive girl, bright and amiable.

Burns Johnson is the oldest son of Mr. and Mrs. L. S. Johnson, and grandson of Judge and Mrs. R. T. Burns. He is a graduate of the Wellburg, W. Va., high school, and is an industrious, promising young man. His young bride only lately was a pupil in a noted Cincinnati school. The Rev. G. C. Hutchinson, of the M. E. Church South, performed the ceremony.

These young people are very popular and highly respected in a large circle of friends. All who know them wish that their future may be without care or cloud.

On Monday evening, August 23, at Graves Shoals, by the Rev. Arthur Preston, Miss Nellie Conley, of this city, and Mr. Jamison Skeens, of the county, were united in marriage. The wedding was not generally known for several days, and even now this notice may be a surprise to many.

Both the contracting parties are very well known in this county, and no young people are more highly respected. The bride is a young woman of many admirable traits of character, very intelligent, amiable, and of very attractive person and manner. She has been a very successful teacher in the schools of this county and as such will be greatly missed.

It is hard to say that any man is entirely worthy of the woman he marries, but Jamison Skeens is pretty much all that a man should be. He is a school teacher, one of the best in the county, and his character is beyond reproach. Man and wife are well mated and deserve happiness and prosperity.

Earl C. McClure is the latest victim of the prevailing epidemic which is of a very contagious character. The dominant symptom is an irresistible inclination to get married. Earl yielded and is now happy, though married. The bride was Miss Demma Chadwick, of Delaware, O., and the marriage occurred in Columbus on August 30, the Rev. Dr. Ramsay officiating. The couple arrived in Fort Gay last Tuesday morning and are housekeeping in the residence of Mrs. Beale.

Mr. McClure is an industrious, worthy gentleman, well and favorably known in Louisa where he has many relatives and friends.

Miss Lucy Skeens and Mr. Ben Heston were married at the residence of F. L. Stewart on Saturday evening last, the Rev. L. M. Copley officiating. The bride is a very worthy and much respected young woman, while the groom is a sober, intelligent and industrious young man, respected by all who know him.

Miss Mary A. Skaggs and Albert Boggs were married on August 26. License to marry was issued September 1st to Marion Nelson and Minerva Holly.

The Institute.

The Lawrence County Teachers' Institute passed into history Friday afternoon after a most interesting and instructive session of five well spent days. The instructors, Professors Hyington and Kennison, and the teachers seemed to be in perfect accord, and the results were extremely gratifying. From the opening on Monday to the final close everything went with a snap and interest, in sharp and pleasing contrast with some former funeral sort of functions heretofore held in Louisa and miscalled "institutes."

The teacher who from any cause failed to attend this meeting missed a great deal which would have been useful to him, and it is impossible to conceive of any who were present and failed to derive great and lasting good from this latest gathering of teachers of Lawrence county.

A Big Casser.

The Marrowbone Oil & Gas Company brought in its test well on the Mead farm near Warfield Saturday, with a showing of about two million feet of gas. This company owns and has under lease in Wayne, Mingo and Lincoln counties, W. Va., and Martin county, Ky., over 11,000 acres. It is the purpose of the company to drill additional wells at once, as it can secure a ready market for its gas, being adjacent to the pipe lines of the United States Natural Gas Company and the Columbia Pipe Line Company.

Bowls and Balls.

T. P. Crumpler is putting up on Main street opposite Spencer's store a frame building to be used as a pool room and bowling alley. It will be 100 feet deep with a front of 30 feet. All the furnishings will be new and of the latest designs, and the business will be conducted so as to make it attractive to all and entirely devoid of any objectionable feature. Mr. Crumpler will probably open similar places in other towns.

BIG SALE OF MINERALS.

Coal Property of the Upper Big Sandy Valley Sold to Strong Company.

Hon. Charles F. Teter, of Phillips, W. Va., Joseph Showalter, of Fairmont, W. Va., Joseph Barnes, of Pittsburg and others have purchased a vast boundary of coal and timber lands adjoining the holdings of the Consolidated Coal Company's lands, in Floyd and Pike counties, and it is said that it is their intention to organize a million dollar company for the development of their possessions. There is 11,000 acres of the land, for which it is said they paid close to \$40.00 per acre.

The purchase is a very significant deal to the people of the upper Big Sandy Valley and promises to add vastly to the coal and timber output of Eastern Kentucky.

Another significant proposition which will aid in the development of the mountainous section of the State is the proposition for building another line of railroad, between Line Fork and Keokee, Va., of which the Manufacturers' Record says:

"Engineers are reported surveying a railroad from Line Fork through Hurricane Gap of Pine Mountain to the mouth of Clover Lick creek and up Clover Lick creek valley, crossing Big Black Mountain to Clover Fork, Ky., to Keokee, Va. It is stated that the company for which the surveys are being made proposes building a line from Beattyville, Ky., south via the places named to a point at or near Clinchport, Va. The line, if constructed, will give a direct short line from near Cincinnati via Beattyville to Bristol, Tenn."

Fourth Quarterly Meeting.

Church Home-coming and Roll-Call Sunday morning at M. E. Church, Louisa. It will be the fourth quarterly meeting. Rev. J. M. Ackman, D. S., will preach. All members, the young, as well as others, are urged to attend holy communion. This will be the last communion for this conference year. The Pastor.

LANDS TO BE OPENED.

North and South Dakota Indian Lands Will Soon be Allotted to Settlers.

It is now announced that the Standing Rock and Cheyenne River Indian lands in North and South Dakota are to be opened for settlement. This land is mostly in South Dakota. It embraces 2,800,000 acres, but a large amount of it is to be apportioned among the Indians. This will leave about 7,000 quarter sections to be allotted by drawing to settlers. October 4 has been named as the date for registration and the places of registration are Aberdeen, Mobridge and Lemmon, all in South Dakota. Most of these lands are said to be fertile, well wooded and watered. The entire tract is traversed by a railroad, an advantage not possessed by any of the reservations heretofore thrown open to homesteaders.

Evidently there will be a big rush for the Dakotas, for Uncle Sam's lotteries always are heralded widely. The newspapers tell about it as a matter of news. The railroads nearest the vicinity of the drawing advertise it strongly as a matter of business. It is probable there will be as many as 100,000 applications for the 7,000 homesteads; possibly the number may be even larger. The chances of drawing a quarter section are small, but that will deter no applicants and many will travel hundreds of miles to be in at the distribution.

One who would apply for a tract of land must be a bona fide citizen of the United States, either native born or naturalized. He or she must be over 21 years of age or the head of a family, and must not be the owner of more than 160 acres of land in any State or Territory. There are certain requirements to be complied with in case the applicant is successful in securing a tract, the most important of which is residence on the land for a certain length of time.

Kentuckians are proverbially handy at taking a chance and a good many of them doubtless will be attracted by the distribution of these Dakota lands. Where there is "something doing" Kentuckians are always on hand. They are adventurous, aggressive and acquisitive. For the benefit of any who feel a hunger for glad, free life of the Northwest the glad, free life of the Northwest the Courier-Journal has supplied the details herewith regarding Uncle Sam's latest lottery.—Courier-Journal.

Merited Success.

Arthur M. Elam, son of Mr. and Mrs. Matt. Elam, of this city, was, with his young wife, the guest of his parents a few days ago. The young man formerly lived in Louisa and went to school here. He became a pupil of the Kentucky State University, winning distinction as a student and graduating with honor. Soon after his graduation he entered the State University faculty, having been made teacher of electrical and mechanical engineering.

Mr. Elam has returned to Lexington, the place where he won his wife, and has become a member of the State University, having been made teacher of electrical and mechanical engineering.

This narrative has its moral: What he has done, young man, you can do. The end crowns the work.

Rumored Pardon.

The NEWS correspondent at Summit writes that William Ratcliff, sent from this county at the January term of the Circuit Court for assault to kill, would be pardoned September 1st. The grounds for the alleged pardon will be the bad health of the convict.

Ratcliff assaulted and tried to kill his step son-in-law, a man named Harvey Yonce.

Mrs. B. J. Chaffin, of Louisa, came down Sunday to see her sister, Mrs. W. S. Frazier, who is confined in the King's Daughters' Hospital here with an attack of typhoid fever. Mrs. Chaffin found her sister getting along nicely, and will return home probably today.—Ashland Independent.

BIG SANDIANS IN LONDON.

Mr. Mellen, Born at Old Peach Orchard, Was Met in England by Dr. McClure.

Lexington, Ky., Aug. 31. Editor Big Sandy News, Dear Sir:—I, in addition to many others have read, with much delight, the interesting communications from the pen of Miss Margaret A. Cruikshanks, in her interesting reminiscence of early days on the Big Sandy, particularly in the vicinity of old Peach Orchard, formerly Mellensburg. Though not a contemporary of Miss Cruikshanks as was my good friend Frank Freese and others mentioned, I, too, remember "its hills, the river, coal mines, boat yard," etc. They come to me as a long forgotten dream.

But I digress from the purpose of this communication. Miss Cruikshanks spoke of her memory of the Mellen family and it occurred to me that a personal experience a few years ago might shed some light on the whereabouts of the Mellens, of which Miss Cruikshanks seems to be in doubt and be of some interest to the older inhabitants of that once thrifty little village—Peach Orchard.

On board of a great Cunard steamer I chanced to meet one of the most cultured and in every way charming young ladies I have ever been my fortune to know—a Miss Ayers by name, from New York City, who with her mother was en route to London. As fortune would have it we stopped at the same hotel on our arrival, and shortly afterwards Miss Ayers became ill and still as fortune would have it I was called to attend her. During her convalescence she confided to me the information that she was shortly to be married and that her fiancé was shortly to join her, and extended to me an invitation to the wedding which occurred at that historic old edifice, St. Martins in the field.

Now for the meat of my story. On the arrival of the groom-to-be, I was introduced to Mr. Mellen, of New York. He inquired of me as to my home State, and when I told him Kentucky he remarked that he was born in Kentucky at a small place called Mellensburg. Imagine my surprised delight to meet, for the first time, in that far away place a boy who was born within three miles of my native home. This was the son of the Will Mellen with whom Miss Cruikshanks floated down the Big Sandy river in a "flat boat" in the month of February, 1860.

Trusting this may not be without interest to some of your readers, I am, An ex-Big Sandian, W. B. McClure.

County Election Commissioners.

The State Board of Election Commissioners, consisting of Napier Adams, Chairman, Republican; J. T. Shelby, of Boyle county, Democrat, met in Frankfort last Thursday and appointed the County Election Commissioners for all the counties in the State except four or five, which were passed, and the appointments will be made later.

There was no friction. Adolph Wells was re-elected Secretary of the Board. The County Commissioners selected for the surrounding counties in Eastern Kentucky are as follows:

Martin, Dr. A. E. Spear, Rep.; S. W. Newberry, Dem.
Lawrence, W. A. Copley, Rep.; A. J. Conley, Dem.
Johnson, Floyd Clay, Rep.; E. F. Howes, Dem.
Pike, S. H. Wright, Rep.; George Pinson, Jr., Dem.

Religious Services.

The Rev. G. C. Hutchinson preached an excellent sermon at the Southern Methodist Church on last Sunday morning. At night his congregation joined with that of the Baptist Church, with service in that building. The occasion was the farewell service of the pastor, the Rev. G. C. Riggan. The congregation was large and the service very interesting.

A crowd of young folks, chaperoned by Mrs. A. W. Bromley, Mrs. D. C. Spencer and Mrs. Carl Reynolds, spent last Monday at Fountain Park.

Shot From Ambush.

F. L. Johnson, son of Dr. W. W. Johnson, of Newfoundland, Elliott county, was shot from ambush while standing at his own gate on Saturday last, and killed. Bloodhounds were immediately secured from Wilmore, but failed to strike the trail. Johnson killed his brother-in-law, Harper, about a year ago, and had been sentenced to the penitentiary, but the Court of Appeals reversed the decision, and he was out on bond. He was married and was a member of a prominent family. Besides his wife he leaves several children.

Commenting upon this latest assassination the Courier-Journal says:

The foundation of the vendetta in the Kentucky mountains is the common failure of the courts to interfere vigorously with the programme of "fighting it out." Every weak-kneed juror, every crooked witness and every reviewing court that reverses a verdict of guilty without sufficient grounds, contributes to that failure, and aids in extending a list of widows and orphans and assassins that is a standing rebuke to civilization, not only in the Appalachian mountains, but throughout the United States, where the number of convictions is wholly disproportionate to the number of homicides.

Child Labor Law.

The Child Labor Law of 1908 makes it unlawful for any child under fourteen years of age to be employed in any factory, workshop, store, etc. It is also unlawful for any child between the ages of fourteen and sixteen to be employed in these places unless he has a labor certificate, signed by the proper authority.

The penalty for violation of the law is a fine of not more than \$50 for the first offense and \$5 a day for every day of employment after conviction.

A new section of the law goes into effect the first of September, namely that of the educational qualification, which did not apply for last year.

TWO SHOOTING SCRAPES.

Both in the Twin Branch Section. Neither is Dangerous.

Out in the Twin Branch country Wednesday evening a row occurred between James Diamond and his son and Jonah Adkins. It resulted in James Diamond stopping at least a portion of a charge fired from a shot gun in the hands of Adkins. A slug that formed part of the ammunition lies buried in Diamond's anatomy, but not at a vital place. No serious results are expected.

The men are neighbors and the trouble arose about a cow getting into the other fellow's corn field.

Adkins came to Louisa at once and surrendered. His trial was fixed for next Monday and he gave bond.

On Thursday night of last week, in the same neighborhood, Charley Jordan was shot twice, but not dangerously wounded. A general fight was in progress at a church house where services were being held.

The Eleventh Commandment.

We have received a few replies from the school teachers of the county in answer to our offer of last week to all teachers who give the correct interpretation to the "Eleventh Commandment." This is a genuine offer, but your time will be up next Friday, Sept. 3, so don't delay with your answer. We also offer to make free the columns of the Times to all teachers for the exchange of thought or the propounding of questions, etc. Remember this when you want to communicate with each other.—Exchange.

Whatever the Biblical "eleventh" commandment may be the one very many endeavor to keep is, "Thou shalt not be found out."

Little Miss Christina Bussey celebrated her fifth birthday on Wednesday with many of her little friends as her guests. The occasion was greatly enjoyed.

POSTPONEMENT.

Opening of the Louisa Public School Deferred.

Erection of a Concrete Addition to the Main Building Stopped by Injunction.

The Louisa Public School did not open last Monday, according to previous announcement. Only that portion which includes the grades above the seventh, for which the college building is used, is in session. The delay in opening the grades that will use the public school building is the result of an injunction, procured on Thursday of last week. On that day Mr. W. D. O'Neal, Jr., applied to the Circuit Court Clerk and was granted an injunction, with E. E. Shannon as bondsman.

The injunction stopped the erection of a concrete block building in which modern water closets were to be installed. The walls of the building were almost completed and the Board of Education expected to have it ready for use by the time school opened. The following statement from the Board of Education gives the details of the situation:

To the Public:

Because of the many questions being asked of the Board of Education about the details of the postponement of the school opening we have decided to publish a plain statement of facts, without comment.

A few months ago Mr. C. C. Hill, brother-in-law of W. D. O'Neal, Jr., and a member of the City Council, publicly called attention, in a meeting of that body, to the "disgraceful" condition existing in connection with the public school closets, which he truthfully declared to be a menace to health and morals and a disgrace to the town. The old closets standing on the front grounds are within a few feet of Mr. Hill's residence. This talk was made previous to the election of the present Board of Education, but two of those who are now members heard it and recognized the justice of the criticism.

A few weeks ago the Board took this matter under advisement. They found that closets had been installed in the main building two years ago, but proved to be failures and had to be abandoned. The old ones in the front yard, which had been built before Louisa had water works, had been slightly repaired after that and put into use. After conferring with the teachers it was decided to erect a substantial building of concrete blocks at the rear, next to the hill, and about ten feet from the main building. A solid wall twelve inches thick, (and two outside spans of lattice) join the two buildings, separating the girls and boys apartments. Thus, doors from the two cloak rooms open into passage ways to the closets. The lattice work obstructs the view from the outside and renders it private, at the same time allowing the necessary ventilation and light. A roof over this passage protects the children from rain and snow. The equipment of the closets is to be the most satisfactory kind of automatic and periodical flushing apparatus. The floor will be of concrete, with drainage suitable for giving it a daily washing by the use of hose.

The building is of neat design and the Board was greatly surprised to find that any one objects to it. It is in the most secluded place possible, while the old unsightly closets are out in full view of many residences, one of them being in sight of Mr. O'Neal's.

Mr. O'Neal claims that he will be damaged by the new addition being within sight of his residence. Also, he denies that it was necessary to postpone the opening of school on account of the injunction.

The old closets are badly out of repair. The floor of one of them, at least, would probably fall through into the vault if used. We did not and do not now feel justified in spending money on them, in the face of decency and the good cause for complaint that the people have. (Continued on page 5.)